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LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued by the Presidency on 4 February 2000 on behalf of the European Union on East Timor (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) António MONTEIRO
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on East Timor issued on 4 February 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the publication of the report by the International Commission of Inquiry on gross violations of fundamental human rights and humanitarian law in East Timor. The international community, through the United Nations system, has a responsibility to ensure that such violations are investigated and the perpetrators are brought to justice.

The European Union also welcomes the publication of the report by the Indonesian Human Rights Commission into the allegations of human rights abuses in East Timor as another important element in the future efforts of the Government of Indonesia to bring those judged responsible for such violations to justice. Accountability for such crimes would provide the best basis for democratic stability and lasting reconciliation.

The European Union will keep the follow-up to these reports under due consideration.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Iceland and Liechtenstein, countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.